

Murray Arts Advisory Board  
Minutes for April 17, 2012

Attendance: Mildred Horton, David Christensen, Scott Mooy, Brandon Beckstead, Sharon Whitney, Mary Ann Kirk (staff)

Excused: Shauna Hart, Elaine Judd, Jenny Simmons

1. Minutes for March 20, 2012 were approved.
2. March events were reviewed. Youth musicals are finished with good participation ranging from a cast of 15 to close to 70. There was some concern related to the various budget. One school chose not to use any on personnel but spent the entire amount on costumes and sets. The board agreed we should create a specific range for each expense. The literary exhibit is up at the library and the grand prize winner chose a different writers workshop in Provo that was less expensive.
3. Upcoming events were quickly reviewed and volunteers were requested for the art show on May 1-3. Mary Ann shared the list of artists for the Murray High Art Fest scheduled for May 18. Mary Ann invited board members to attend the Mountain West Arts Conference.
4. We received a slightly higher revised amount for ZAP of \$53,205.
5. Holly Robison presented her ideas for a storytelling festival. She described the festivals around the state and how the schools have been involved. She organized a festival at Horizon Elementary School last year where 80 students signed up and 65 children actually participated. She did workshops after school for one week and then the children presented their stories to school classrooms. Each grade level selected the best two and they were performed at a night time festival for parents. She was disappointed with the audience behavior because parents would talk and leave when their child was finished. Board members said it will take some educating. Mary Ann asked if a classroom residency would involve more children. Scott suggested we could look at the curriculum and see where storytelling would fit in. Mildred didn't think teachers would want another assignment in the classroom. Board members preferred the after-school format but Holly suggested it run for two weeks, rather than one. Board members liked the overall idea. We were unsure if we want this to be an annual event or alternate with things like the youth musicals. Mary Ann suggested we start small and we can work with Holly to organize the program next year with those schools who are interested with a city wide festival. We can hire storytellers based on the number needed. A city festival might work best in the February or March time frame with school festivals occurring anytime before that. The Little Theater might be a good venue. Holly felt it would make it more interesting to have professional storytellers mixed in with the youth at the city festival. Professional storytellers charge between \$200-\$400 per performance. Mary Ann said the Utah Arts Council typically pays a resident artist about \$25-\$30 per hour for workshops.

6. Mary Ann reported the Foundation met with Jim Brass and has decided to keep the foundation intact but will take a break while they see if the project gains any funding momentum. Mary Ann said the city met with the county and they are not requiring us to submit a new application. They may invite us to present our project to the TRCC committee. However, the county has no money at the moment. The city has not committed any money to the project either. Their priority is city hall. Mildred was surprised that the downtown economic development was not the priority. A city hall is not going to help economic development. Mary Ann explained the council is still unsure about the foundation's ability to raise any funds and they are worried that the facility will be a drain on city funds similar to the recreation center. Sharon felt a recreation center is different than an arts facility. Mary Ann noted that Taylorsville, Cottonwood Heights, and Sandy City are all submitting applications so the competition is increasing.

The city does not plan to participate in funding for any additional facilities for the new junior high. Mary Ann has communicated with the band and symphony to contact the district if they want to ask for and help fund some extra storage space in case the performing arts center is never built. Scott noted that there is a current concern about outside fundraising for extra facilities. This has been highlighted with school sports facilities in Utah County. Mary Ann felt bad for the symphony because we lowered their grant and they raised \$2000 for the feasibility study when it could have gone toward some storage space. Brandon said that is how it works in business - sometimes investments work, and sometimes they don't. Mary Ann did remind the symphony that few communities give grants out and pay for performance venues. Mildred noted the school district is very disappointed the city would not want to collaborate especially when our groups will be using the facilities. Mary Ann said the use is no different than what we are currently using. The schools still need to build their basic facility. But those facilities may or may not meet our needs. We will just continue providing the programs with the facilities we have. But she is frustrated that we are missing this opportunity when the performing arts facility is in doubt.